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LOS ANGELES

Church of the Holy Cross,

Binstead,

I. of Wt.

South East View of Church.

R. J. WITHERS RYDE I. W.

F. Bedford, Litho. London

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CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

BINSTEAD, ISLE OF WIGHT.

FROM DRAWINGS AND ADMEASUREMENTS

BY R. J. WITHERS, ARCHITECT.

About a mile and a half to the westward of Ryde, and bordering on the coast of the Solent Sea, is situate the beautiful and picturesque village church of Binstead, and which the accompanying Plates are intended to represent in detail. The surrounding scenery is well calculated for privacy and devotion, the church being encompassed with tall and stately trees, rearing their heads as if to protect the small and humble house of God from all harm and irreverence. On taking an exterior view we perceive that the foundation and other parts of walls clearly indicate the primary structure to be Norman, and one small circular head light 12½ inches wide and 4′ 2″ to the springing under a segmental arch inside, and coeval with the original building, remains in the N.E. corner of nave, the remaining windows being modern innovations, with the exception of the E. and S.E. of chancel, which appear to have been inserted towards the latter end of the thirteenth century; that on the N.E. is a pretended copy by a country mason of the present century of the beautiful two-light window opposite, but as coarse and incorrect in detail as possible. It is evident that the roof of chancel, as well as the cross upon the east gable and coping, were added about the same time as the windows. A low segmental chancel arch, erected at the time the Norman church was built, remained until some few years ago, when it was destroyed, and a common pointed one substituted; the imposts of

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the original arch remain, which are given in Plate 5. The old bell remains in the wooden bell cot with a more modern one, the inscription on the former being in early character, "*Sancta Maria ora pro nobis.*"

No ancient records remain which would enable us to throw any light upon the erection or subsequent alteration of this little village church, but it is undoubtedly dedicated to the Holy Cross, from its being mentioned as such by various antiquarian writers, and from another still more striking certainty, that of its *orientation*, it being built pointing exactly 5′ 30″ north of east, being about the point the sun rises on the 14th of September, the day of the exaltation of the Holy Cross or Holy Rood.

Plate 1. By this the general character of the church may be formed, which when this sketch was taken was in a very deplorable state, but has lately been nearly rebuilt and perfectly restored, and much to the credit of those engaged. A square trefoil-headed "*lychnoscope*" (Cam. Cam. Soc.) remains blocked up in the s.w. corner of chancel.

Plate 2. This beautiful early example of stained glass dates undoubtedly with the window to which it belongs, and from its extreme simplicity deserves particular attention. The plan is as usual, nave and chancel, the latter being very well proportioned. No traces on the outside wall on north side of chancel remain to show whether there ever existed a sacristy to account for the recess in the wall, as it appears to have been a locker for some purpose, and is therefore open to conjecture.

Plate 3. An elegant specimen of an early decorated window, and symbolical in every respect of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, it being divided into *three* lights and *three* circles, these subdivided into *three* trefoils, each trefoil having *three* spandrils, the whole comprised under *one* arch. It will also be seen that the *same* radius that describes the underside of outside arch, is the *same* that describes the underside of the inside arch, thereby making it equal, but still spreading more inside for the better admission of light. The label is the same to the interior and exterior of this and the two-light window next given.

Plate 4. This window is coeval with the one just mentioned, and equally beautiful, although not so strikingly symbolical; the interior arch immediately over the window is the same as the outside one, it being brought through, and thus gives a greater variety of lines than if it were absent.

Plate 5. Fig. 1 represents the roof of chancel, and undoubtedly of early decorated character; this was a common example in former days, and beautiful it must have appeared where there was a long and unbroken line, because *every* rafter was thus trussed and placed about 18 inches apart; but we rarely or ever see such a specimen now. Better times being in store, we may therefore look forward with hope to

an amendment in such things. Figs. 2 and 3 are the quaint and original imposts on the N. and S. sides of chancel, and once supported a beautiful segmental Norman arch. Fig. 4. This was also discovered during the recent repairs, and has been placed over one of the west lancets. Fig. 5. This symbol of eternity was originally the key-stone to the porch door, and is now placed over the other west lancet. Fig. 6. The cross on east gable, and apparently of the same date as the roof, but rather mutilated; this has also been restored. Fig. 7. The piscina in the sill of the S.E. chancel window, and of very uncommon design. Fig. 8. The Holy Dove with the nimbus; this was found during the recent alterations, and has been very properly placed over the entrance door of the new porch, in which place many examples occur.

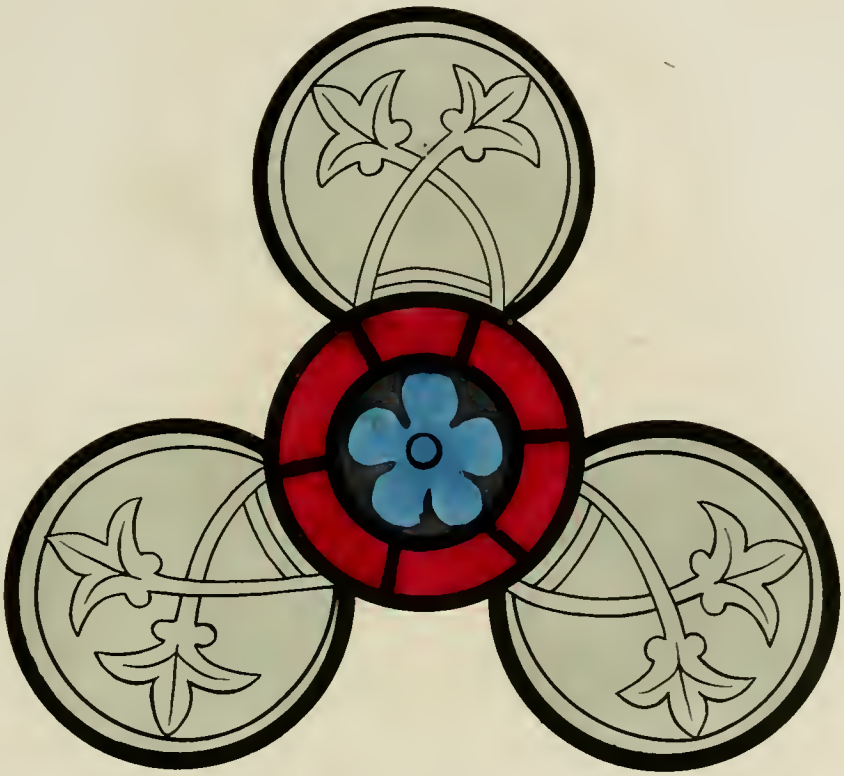
Before concluding these remarks, a few words may not be amiss upon the late beautiful restorations which have been undertaken since these drawings were made; the nave has been entirely rebuilt in the early English style; a bell turret with spire and a new and beautiful open oak roof added, the whole being seated throughout with oak benches, with standards and poppy heads beautifully carved, a stone pulpit and elaborately carved reading stall, and a font of exquisite workmanship, representing the fall and redemption of man in eight compartments.

The chancel windows glow with beautifully painted glass of superior design and execution, the east window being a memorial, as stated by a brass in the sill, to a deceased father by his children; and what can be more suitable for a gift to commemorate one departed in the faith, and whom we loved, and at the same time enrich our beautiful Gothic churches? The altar table and railing are formed from old carvings purchased for that purpose, and exceedingly chaste and elegant: indeed sufficient cannot be said to form the least idea of this now beautiful house of God, and a visit would amply repay any one fond of ecclesiastical architecture. The details are beautifully correct, the whole being designed and carried out by Mr. Thomas Hellyer, of Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Would that others would follow the example of the worthy rector of Binstead, the Rev. P. Hewett, by whose exertions, aided by a few subscribing friends, this hitherto degraded house of prayer has been rendered one worthy of the Most High, and, when complete, will be an everlasting monument of the piety and generosity of those engaged.

R. J. WITHERS.

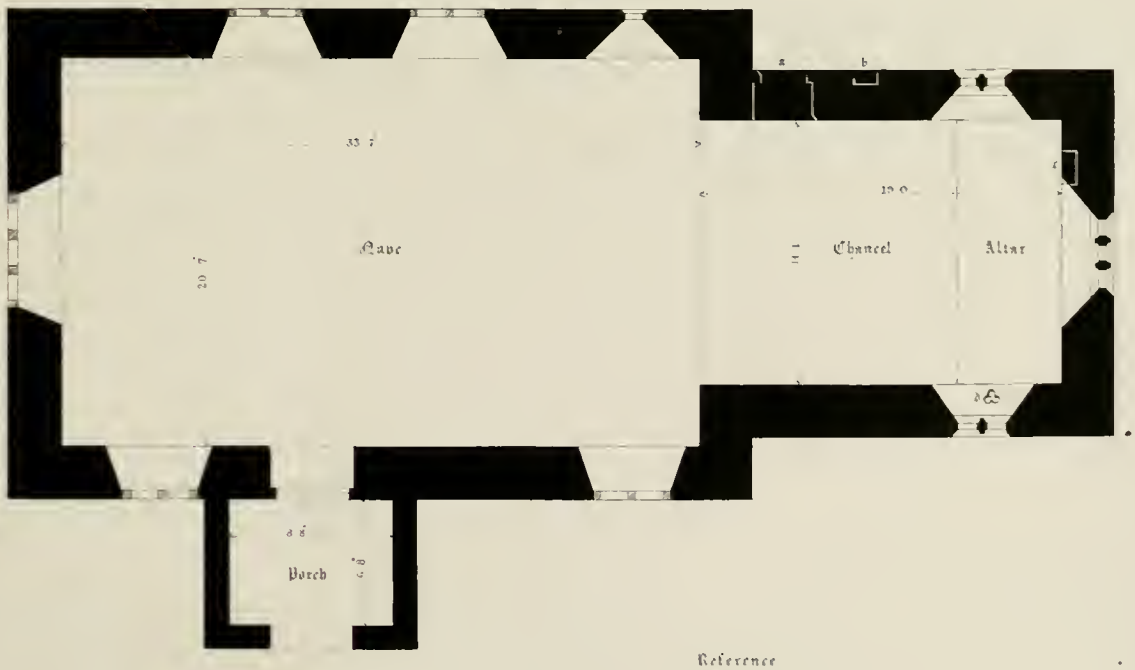
Church of the Holy Cross.
Bunstead.
Nr. of Wl.



Stained or Painted Glass.

on an Trefoil East Window

Scale 1/2"



Reference

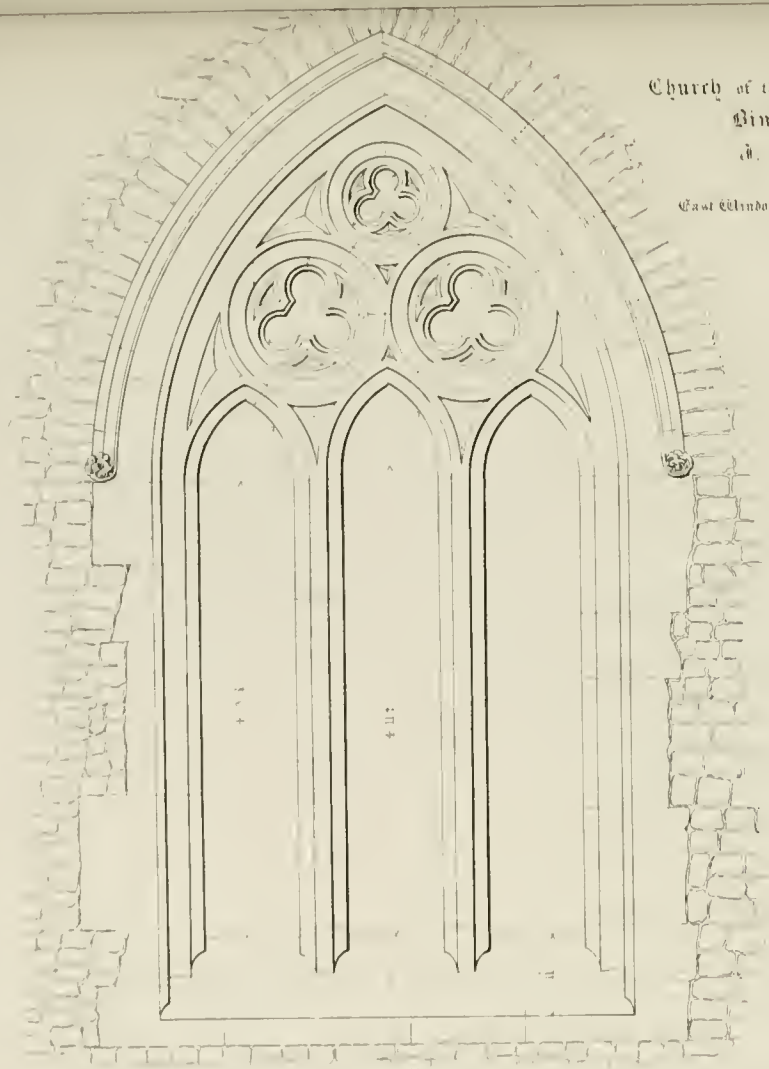
a Priests Door now stopped up
b Corbels in outside Wall
c Aumbries or Tabor
d Piscina

London John Weale 1845
Printed by Straker & Son

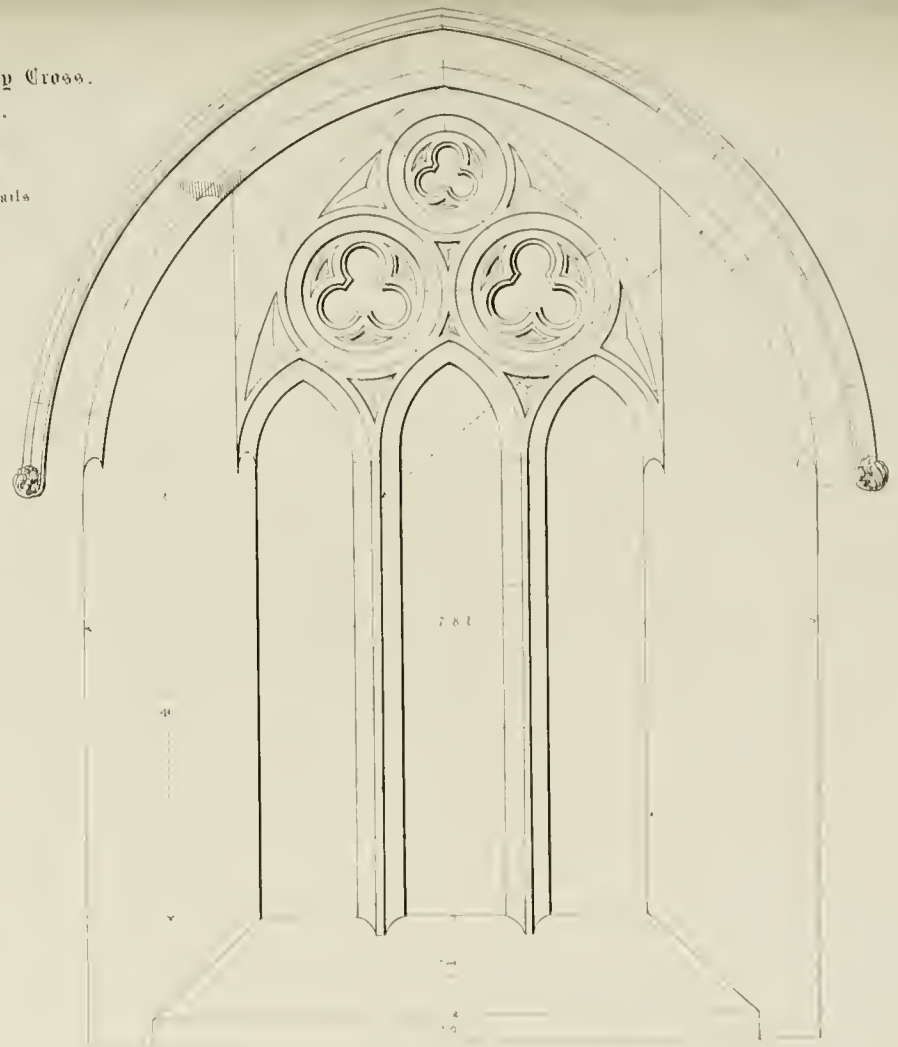
No 3.

Church of the Holy Cross.
Binstead.
Isle of Wight.

East Window & Details

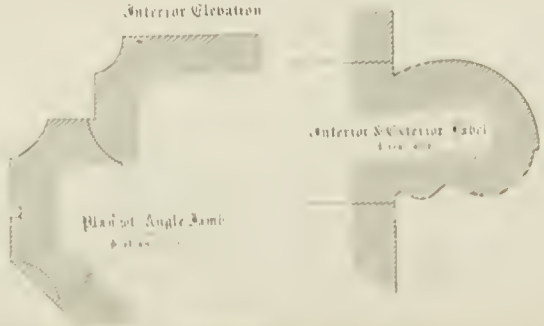


Exterior Elevation



Interior Elevation

Plan of Window

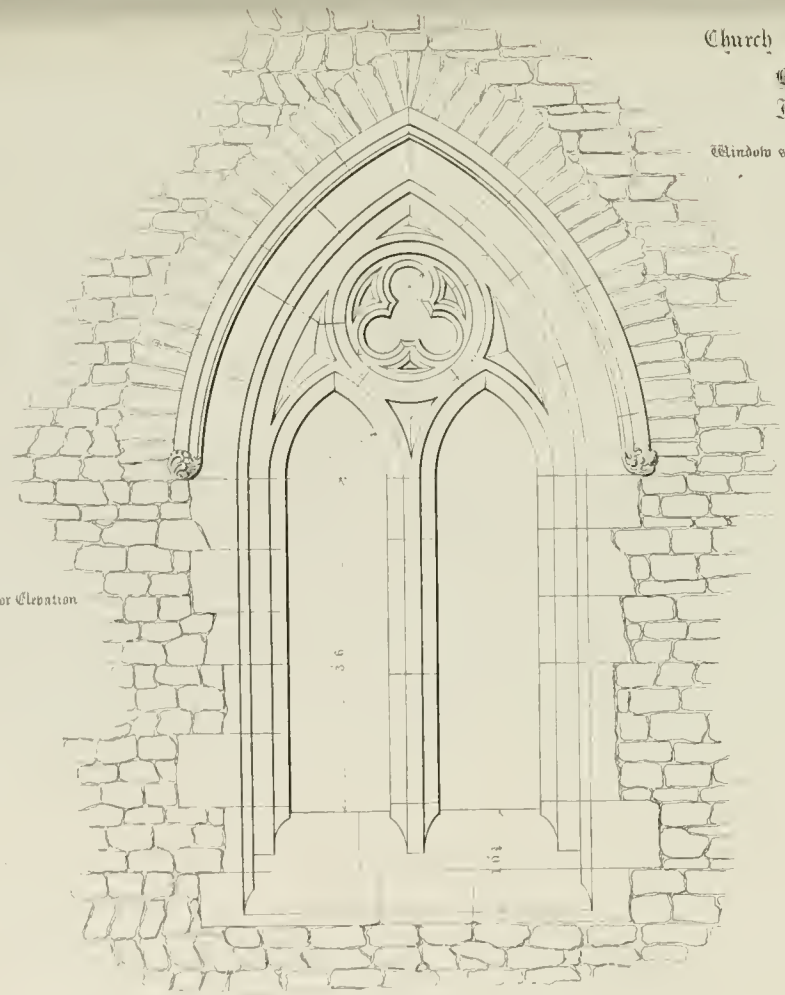


Interior & Exterior Label

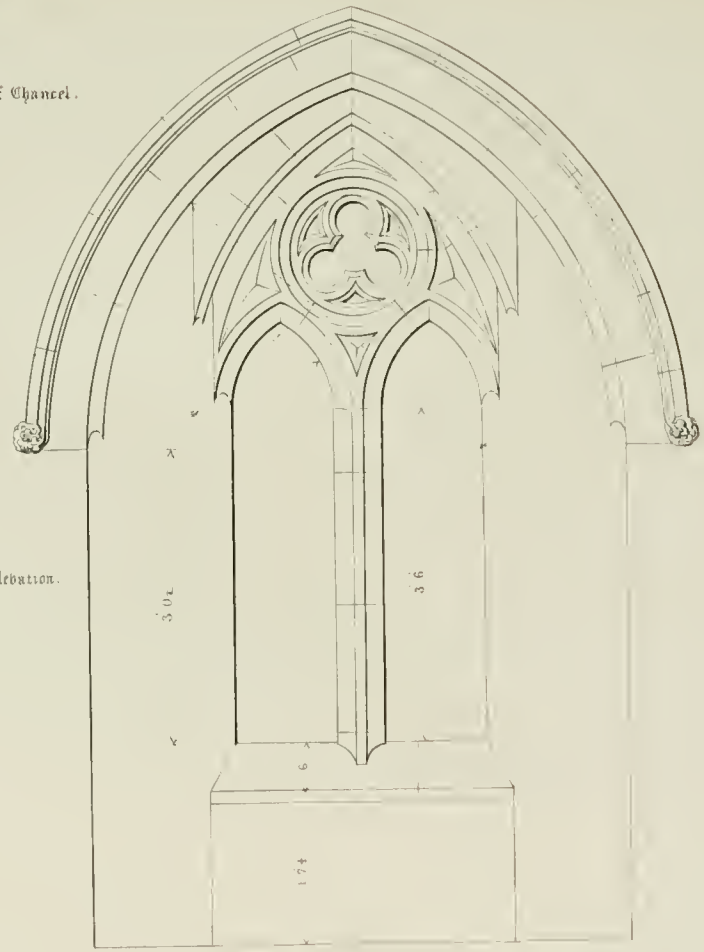
Plan of Angle Jamb

Church of the Holy Cross.
Binstead,
I. of W.

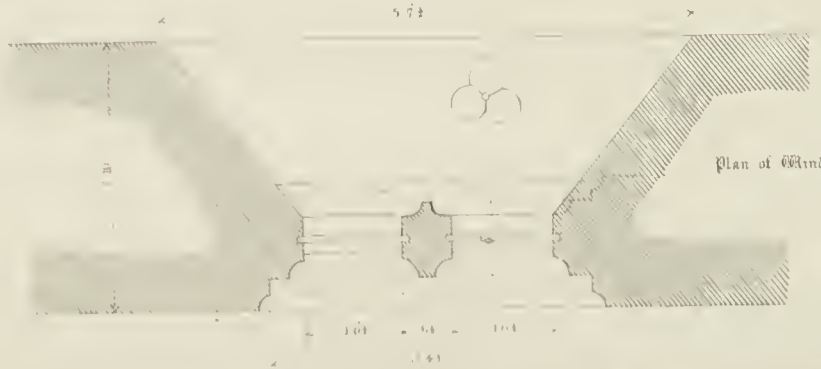
Window south side of Chancel.



Exterior Elevation



Interior Elevation.



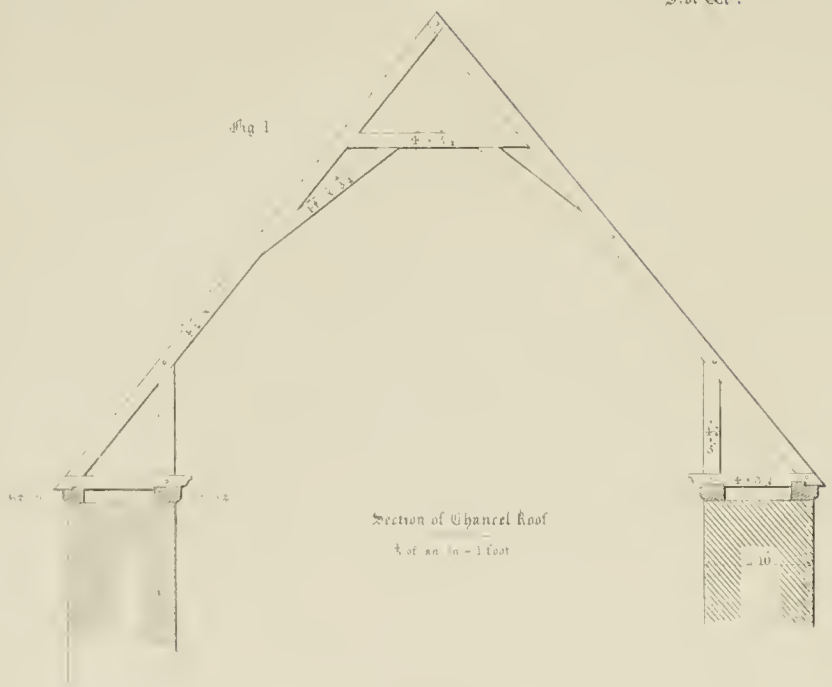
Plan of Window

Plan of Angle Jamb &c

Section of Internal Arch & Jabs

Church of the Holy Cross
Binstead.
I. of Wt.

Fig 1



Section of Chancel Roof

½ of an In = 1 foot

Fig 2

Section

Elevation of Impost &c

Fig

Section

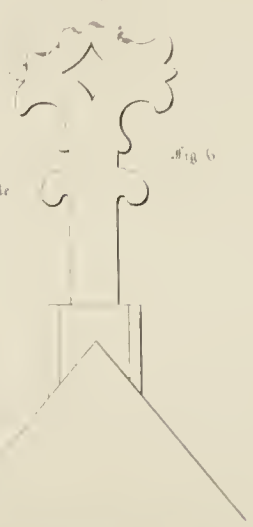
Elevation of Impost &c

Fig 5

Key Stone over Entrance Arch of Porch.

Fig 4

Fig 6



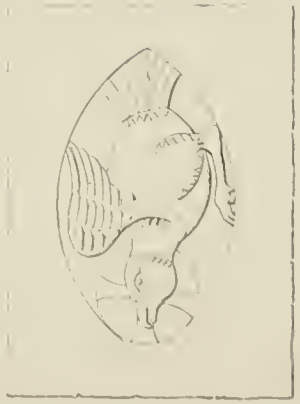
Cross on East Gable

½ in = 1 foot

Fig 7

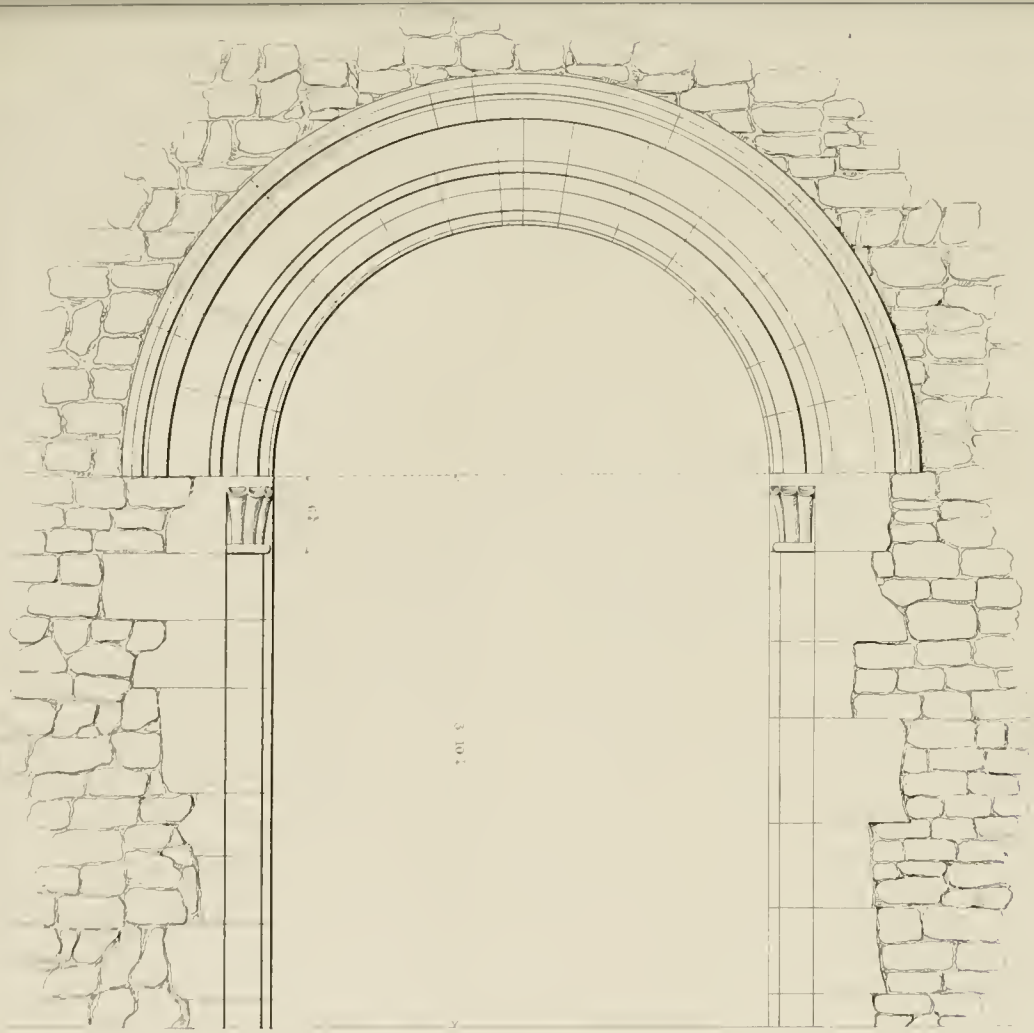
Piscina

Fig 8

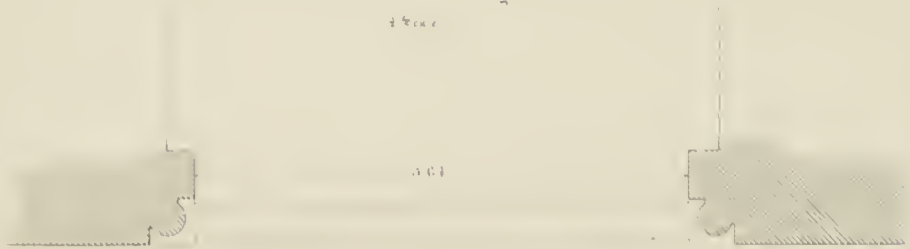


Holy Dove

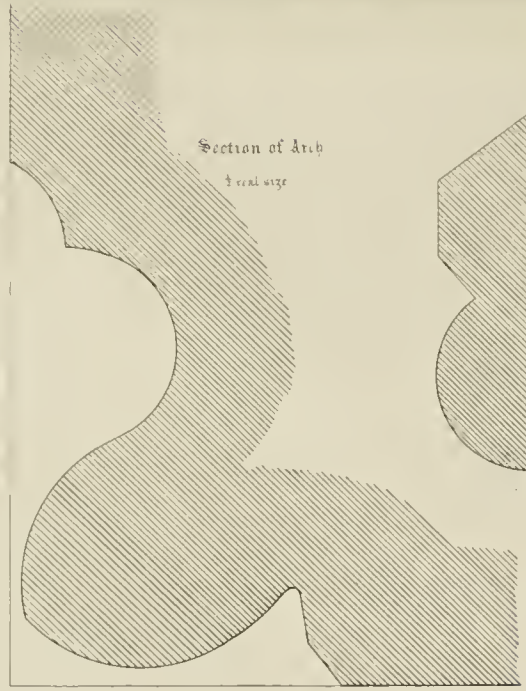
Full size



Elevation of Doorway

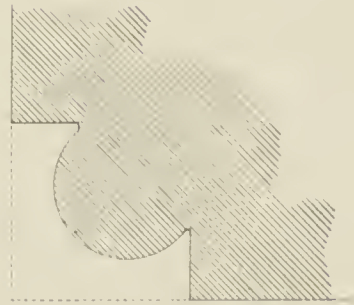


Plan of Doorway

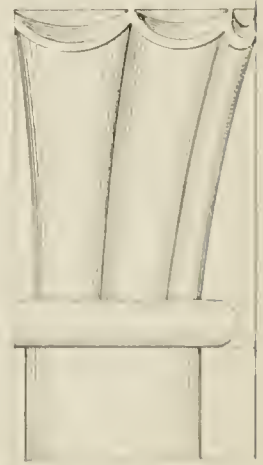


St Mary's Church
Carisbrook
I. of W.

Doorway N.W. side of Nave



Plan of Jamb



Elevation of Cap

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